(b) whether it is a fact that the BT. Cotton loses resistance to the Bollworm and other pests over a period of time; if so, the extent of area in the country under the BT. Cotton cultivation, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide relief to the existing growers of the BT. Cotton in the country; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BT. cotton has been under cultivation since 1995 in seven countries. Resistance of cotton bollworm to BT. cotton has not been reported anywhere even after seven years of cultivation. The Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company (MAHYCO) has been accorded approval for cultivation of three BT. cotton hybrids (namely, MECH 12, MECH 162 and MECH 184) in March 2002 only. The details of BT. cotton seeds marketed by the company (in terms of packets of seeds of 450 g., each of which is sufficient for one acre) in various States during Kharif 2002 is as follows:—

State	MECH 12 BT.	MECH 162 BT.	MECH 184 BT.	Total
	Number of packets of seeds			
Gujarat	190	10340	11605	22135
Maharashtra	281	23250	13335	36866
Andhra Pradesh	110	13910	0	14020
Madhya Pradesh	150	110	4390	5550
Tamilnadu	0	5107	1650	6757
Karnataka	0	9570	200	9770
TOTAL:	731	63187	31180	95098

(c) Does not arise.

Stockholm Convention on POPs

2546. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed the Stockholm Convention aimed at phasing out the production and emission of one dozen Persistent

Organic Pollutants (POPs) including nine pesticides and three industrial chemical emissions;

(b) whether as an immediate fall-out, the country would be given a grant from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) to carry out an assessment and chart out a plan to tackle POPs; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this plan and its impact on the industry?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. India has signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) on 14th May, 2002.

(b) and (c) The Global Environment Fund (GEF) will provide financial assistance to countries who have signed the Convention. A proposal on enabling activities has been submitted to GEF for preliminary assessment of the extent and nature of POPs released into the environment and inventorisation of stock-piles and contaminated sites. The Convention is yet to come into force.

Review of Eco-Development Project

2547. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working of India's Eco-Development Project, which is focussed around Tiger Reserves and National Parks in seven States, has recently been reviewed and the problems identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to rectify them; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to afford more security to forests?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The progress of implementation of the India Eco-Development Project which is focussed around five Tiger Reserves and two National Parks in seven States has been reviewed from time to